

Application No.: 09/417,767
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated November 10, 2004
Reply to the Office Action of July 14, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An electronic camera, comprising:

an imaging device for ~~periodically~~ outputting ~~[[an]]~~ a previous image signal and a current image signal of an object;

a processor for subjecting the image signals, outputted from said imaging device, to a signal processing;

a calculator for calculating a specific compression ratio ~~capable of compressing a preceding image signal, outputted from said processor and corresponding to a preceding screen, to a specific size~~ for the current image signal based on a compression ratio that compresses the previous image signal to a target size;

a compressor for compressing ~~[[a]]~~ the current image signal, ~~outputted from said processor and corresponding to a current screen appearing after the preceding screen,~~ using the specific compression ratio calculated by said calculator; and

a recorder for recording to a recording medium ~~a plurality of screens of~~ compressed image signals created by said compressor.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein said calculator calculates the specific compression ratio based on an ~~arbitrary~~ initial compression ratio,

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a compressed size of the ~~compressed~~ previous image signal ~~obtained by compressing the~~
~~preceding image signal with the arbitrary compression ratio~~, and the ~~specific~~ target size.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An electronic camera according to claim 1, further comprising a selector for selecting one of a first recording mode to create within said recording medium a plurality of still image files respectively accommodating ~~the plurality of screens of the~~ compressed image signals and a second recording mode to create within said recording medium a motion image file collectively accommodating ~~the plurality of screens of~~ compressed image signals, wherein said processor creates the image signal having a first resolution when the first recording mode is selected by said selector and creates the image signal having a second resolution when the second recording mode is selected by said selector, ~~and the specific size is~~ different between the first recording mode and the second recording mode.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An electronic camera according to claim 3, wherein the first resolution is higher than the second resolution, and the ~~specific~~ target size directed to the first recording mode is greater than the ~~specific~~ target size directed to the second recording mode.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): An electronic camera according to claim 3, wherein said imaging device outputs one screen of the image signal at a first interval when the first recording mode is selected and outputs one screen of the image signal at a second interval when the second recording mode is selected.

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Claim 6 (Previously Presented): An electronic camera according to claim 5, wherein the first interval is longer than the second interval.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein the previous image signal is an image signal previous to the current image signal by a number of screens corresponding to a calculation period of said calculator.